









The Veterans of



Deupree House



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November, 2025



W. Keith Baldwin 1961 - 1967

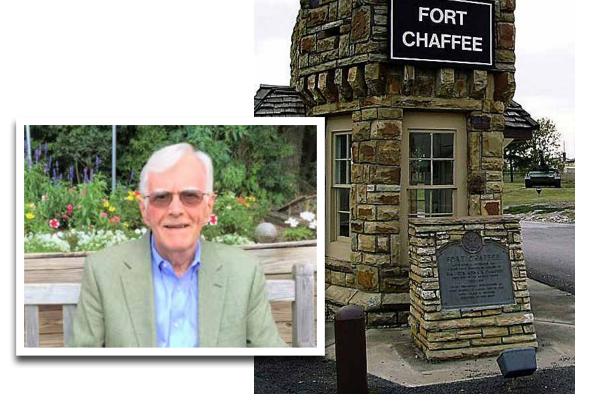
Enlisted in the 100th division reserve at Frankfort, KY after college. I served 13 months on active duty at Ft Chaffee during the Berlin Crisis.

My last assignment was being a Detachment Sergeant in the 259th Military Intelligence Unit in Cincinnati, OH.

I then declined a direct commission to officer and was honorably discharged June 30, 1967.









Robert S. Benintendi, M.D. 1963 - 1965

After 8 weeks in the tropical paradise of San Antonio, Texas (mid-July to mid Sept) Fort Sam Houston, I was ordered to report to the 33rd evacuation hospital, Wurzburg, West Germany.

I left from Fort Dix New Jersey on September 20, 1963 via "Riddle" Airlines. The flight had 2 military people: myself and an Air Force Major. The remaining passengers were women and children.

During the flight 2 propellers ceased working. We landed in Gander, Newfoundland. The next morning we started again.

In Wurzburg, I met Captain Bob Gfellar, an obstetrician from Connecticut. The practice of OB/GYN in the Army is very much like civilian life. Prenatal clinics 3 times per week and GYN clinics two afternoons per week. When on duty we were required to remain in the hospital.

After finding an apartment on the German economy, wife Sally joined me. On March 29, 1964 Dr. Gfellar delivered our first child, Robert. We were busy with deliveries - approximately 60 per month plus clinics. Over the two years the OB/GYN Department had many fine obstetricians and other physicians at the hospital.



During our stay we were able to visit Austria, England, France, Italy and Sicily.

Sally returned to New York in April 1965 pregnant with Baby #2, while I remained in Germany. Sally delivered on June 9, 1965 in New York. I was discharged from Fort Dix on July 24, 1965 and entered civilian life. It was a wonderful experience.





1st Lt. Charles Richard Clark 1961 - 1963

I received my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduating from the University if Illinois after 4 years Reserve Officer Training (ROTC.)

After 3 months of officer orientation at Ft. Lee, Virginia I was assigned to the US Army Petroleum Distribution Command in Europe (France) which operated a pipeline that ran from the West Coast of France (St. Nazaire) to Kaiserslautern, Germany. I served as the Melun Terminal District which was located approximately 40 miles south of Paris.

The purpose of the pipeline was to transport petroleum products (2 grades of jet fuel, motor gasoline, kerosene, and diesel.) My unit supplied all the US Army posts and US Air Force bases within Paris geographical area via railroad tank cars and 5,000-gallon tank trucks.

This was a very tense time throughout Europe and the world in general. The United States was dealing with the ongoing was in Viet Nam, the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion, the building of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Things were very unstable during the "Cold War" period, and it was evident in the area where I was stationed.



Despite the world situation, I enjoyed a good quality of life. Because there was no BOQ, I lived off the economy and enjoyed French hospitality. Living so close to Paris provided my buddies and me with some interesting R&R. I was young, single and the champagne flowed freely.

I received a honorary discharge in May 1963 along with a critical skills Army deferment (due to being a petroleum engineer) and resumed my life as a proud veteran.





Pierson Davis WWII, Korean -1942 - 1953

Pacific Theater: Oct 24, 1942 - Feb 12, 1946

Army Active Reserve: April 30, 1950 - April 3, 1953

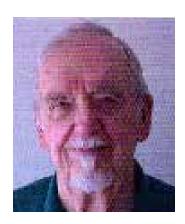
My first experience overseas was to ride a Liberty Ship from Townsville, Australia to Lae, New Guinea, our cargo was 500 lbs. bombs. We ran without escort across the Coral Sea.

I was in the Engineers Company in the 23rd Port Battalion at Lae, New Guinea. The ground war was over but we had regular late night air raids. The trick was to listen for the click when the bombs were released. If it was around the 10 o'clock angle – DUCK.

From there I went to Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. It was secured but my surveying crew suffered sniper fire - no injuries. One night we were watching a news reel of the 11th Airborne making their first combat drop. As the camera followed a chute down there was one of our Engineers sitting on his bulldozed watching the landing.



I was on a troop ship headed to Okinawa from New Guinea. We were being trained for the invasion of Japan. One of the sessions was on the need to shoot children of all ages. As in the Philippines cute little kids would hang around asking, begging for chocolate. In Japan, unlike other places, we were told to throw them a bar. If they kept coming shoot them because they were strapped with explosives. Their purpose was to kill as many Gls as they could. Since the occupation was peaceful that didn't happen.







"Never was so much owed by so many to so few"

Winston Churchill



Richard Fencl Navy - 1955

Dick was commissioned Ensign in the US Naval Reserve on August 6, 1955, the day he graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy with a degree in Marine Engineering, and a license from the US Coast Guard as a 3rd Assistant Engineer, steam and diesel, unlimited horsepower, any waters.

In January 1957, he was called up for active duty in the Navy and was assigned to be the Engineer Officer on the USS Aludra, a refrigerated store ship, sailing between San Francisco and the western Pacific Ocean. The mission of the ship was not glamorous, it was to transport about 10,000 tons of fresh, frozen, and canned food from the Naval Supply Depot in Oakland to the ships and bases in Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and other far away such places. Sometimes the food was transferred while the ships were in port and other times the Aludra met ships while they were sailing and the food transferred while both ships steamed in parallel paths, merely feet apart.



After two years, of active duty, Dick was released to inactive duty again, and 10 years later was allowed to resign his commission.



In April 1917, he was invited to participate in the Honor Flight for Tri-State Veterans. In one very full day the group, plus their escorts, flew from CVG to Washington DC, toured numerous monuments in DC and then were welcomed home at 10:30 p.m. to a band, a cheering crowd of well -wishers, and people wanting to thank them for their service.



Don Gray 1962 - 1996

Basic training at Ft. Benning

Reserve Unit sent to Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX - active duty (PFC)

Reserve Duty 1968-1996 - Military Police (2nd Lt.)









Al Harris Korean - 1955 - 1957

Quartermaster corps – Research and Development.

Never left the U.S.A.

Never fired a shot after basic training.

Still happy to have served and feel it was worthwhile.

Most extended assignment was as a cross-country ski instructor in field evaluation of new insulated combat boots.









Donald Hawley Korean-1943-1952

- U.S. Naval Station in Newport, Rhode Island
- · Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island

During World War II in 1943, I was a part of the Navy V-12 program at Mass. Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) and the University of Cincinnati Medical School until the end of WWII.

I remained in the Naval Reserve and was recalled to active duty, Nov. 1950 to Newport, Rhode Island Naval Base Dispensary as a medical officer. I was transferred to the Newport Naval Hospital to run the infectious disease ward, and transferred to Dispensary in Oct. 1952 as the acting senior medical officer. I was discharged from active duty in Nov. 1952.













Dr. Robert Hummel 1954 - 1956

I was a Captain at Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. I was the Chief of the Burn Study section. We were the military burn treatment center caring for those with burn injuries from all branches of the service. We flew all over the US to pick up patients and transfer them to us for treatment.

I wrote and published 7 research papers on burns during those 2 years.

As a side note, no one ever shouted at me except in basic training! I also never saw any combat experience.









Andrew MacAoidh Jergens 1959-1965

U.S. Army Ordnance Corps

Dates of Service: February 27, 1959 to January 16, 1961 (active duty) January 16, 1961 to January 31, 1965 (reserve to discharge)

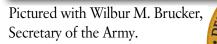
I got my draft notice from President Eisenhower. I did my basic training at Fort Ord, California. I was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland where I was an Officer Personnel Specialist. I maintained Garrison Officers' pay records and other personnel records.

I was the Aberdeen Soldier of the Month for August 1960 and therefore orderly to the Secretary of the Army (Wilbur Brucker) at his annual conference with defense contractors. I also took part in guard duty at a fireworks explosion in nearby Havre De Grace.

I was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for my 16 days active duty in 1961.









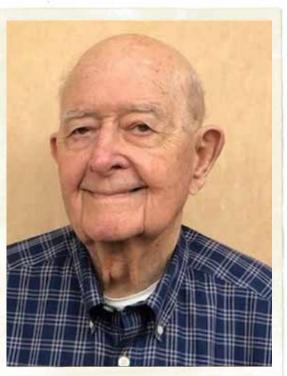


Bravery doesn't mean you aren't scared. It means you go anyway.



Robert A. Johnston 1944 - 1946

I spent 4 semesters in V12 program at University of Texas, received my commission in the Pacific theatre and served as a Deck and Summary Officer. On two APAs until discharged. I was in Navy Reserve until 1966.













William R. Learmonth

Bill's first 6 months in the AF Reserve were spent on active duty, with his first 6 weeks at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX for Basic Training. The rest of his first 6 months were spent at his home base, Bakalar Air Force Base, in Columbus, Indiana for training in Supply with the 434th Troop Carrier Wing. His remaining obligation of 5 1/2 years was to consist of one weekend per month plus 2 weeks' summer camp, all at his home base.

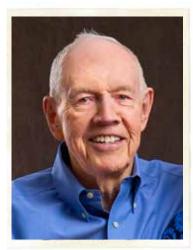
However, in October 1962, his unit was one of several AF Reserve units called to active duty by President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Fortunately, the Crisis, although very intense at the time, was also very short in duration. The morning after Bill's unit was activated, Khrushchev ordered the Russian ships that were carrying missiles bound for Cuba to turn around and head back to Russia.



In 1965, when Bill moved to Cincinnati to work for P&G, he was able to transfer his AF Reserve assignment from Bakalar AF Base to Clinton County AF Base (302D Troop Carrier Wing) in Wilmington, OH.



In December 1966, Bill was selected as Wing Airman of the Month "in recognition of outstanding performance of duties." At the time of his honorable discharge in 1967, his rank was Staff Sergeant, and his assignment was overseeing War Readiness Materials for the Wing.





Fred McGavran Navy - 1965-1969

After graduating from Kenyon College in May 1965, I entered Navy Officer's Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon graduation from OCS in December, I attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia for six months. My first assignment was as disbursing officer (paymaster) and assistant supply officer (laundry and morale officer) aboard USS Henrico (APA 45) a "fast attack transport" (16 knots with fair winds and a following sea) that carried a battalion of troops and the boats to put them ashore over the beach.

The Henrico's home port was San Diego, California, America's most beautiful city. After a nine-month deployment shuttling Marines between San Diego to Vietnam and then rotating them from Vietnam to Okinawa or Subic Bay, the Henrico was put out of commission in Bremerton, Washington. I then had additional training in San Diego before reporting as supply officer aboard YRBM 18 (yard repair, berthing, and messing), a repair barge in the Mekong Delta that was the home base for twenty fiber glass patrol boats.



I spent a year aboard the barge, participating with the other units of our task force in Operation Giant Slingshot, an attempt to stop the infiltration of enemy troops from Cambodia by patrolling the rivers that ran alongside the "parrot's beak" of Cambodia that jutted into Vietnam. Everyone in our task force was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for participating. When I returned to the United States in March 1969, I was released from active service as a lieutenant.





Earl J. Mills Korean - 1950 - 1954

I was very fortunate in being assigned to Air Force Headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany for three years during the Korean War. The work was classified and required long hours, but the rewards were generous. My group leader was a pilot and I was able to be a passenger on his training flights for a C-47 cargo plane. This took us to air bases in several countries on the overnight flights. Including England, France, Norway, and Berlin, Germany. Half of my basic training class went to Korea and I missed the cut-off(alphabetically) by one name. The other half went to Europe. I was very lucky.







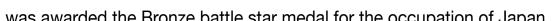


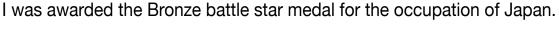
Robert Nau WWII - 1944 - 1946

In August of 1944 at the age of 18 I was drafted into the United States Army. I was sent to Camp Tannin near Tyler, Texas for combat training. After training I was shipped to the Pacific Theater via California and the Golden Gate Bridge. Attached to the America Division and in combat in the Philippines the islands of Cebu and Negros - May - June of 1945.

On September 1 we left Cebu on our way to the Tasakawya Air Base in Japan. We arrived in Tokyo Harbor on September 2 and were the first infantry division arriving 4 hours after the armistice was signed on the Battleship Missouri. There were approximately 300 American and Allied ships in the harbor. It was an awesome sight. Tears were shed.

We were aware the Japanese may still resist. We walked onto Japanese soil with gun safety off prepared to fight. They did not. I stayed in Japan with the occupation force until September 1946.













Tom Ottenjohn Korean - 1952 - 1954

Tom served in the army stateside for 2 years during the Korean War. At Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, he ran a training office for 300-400 men who would be send all over the world. Orders were sent down to specify military needs in different areas and then he picked names to fill those needs. If there was time, Tom let the men trade assignments. He was also in charge of a barracks of 60-120 men. This is a photo of Tom in his Eisenhower jacket in 1999, 45 years later, while visiting his daughter's family. On the jacket are sergeant's stripes he earned. In the later part of the service. He was promoted to Sergeant E-5.













David Thomas Retford 1955 - 1994

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army Reserve, Corp of Engineers

I graduated from Michigan State University in 1955. As a Land Grant university, all male students were at that time required to participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program during their first two years at MSU. My two older brothers, who had both been in active combat in the military as enlisted men, told me I would be foolish not to get a commission so as to be an officer when I went on active duty (draft was still on then). With this strong encouragement, I completed my last two years at MSU in the Advanced ROTC program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers upon graduation.



This ROTC commission obligated me to combination of 2 years active and 4 years reserve duty. In 1957 I went on active duty at Fort Belvoir in Virginia, the Corp of Engineers primary training base. The Korean war had just ended and the Army was over staffed with returning Lieutenants. This led to me being given the option of spending only 6 months on active duty but in turn I would be obligated to 8 years in the reserve; I accepted. And I stayed on for 20 more years.

As the years went by I was involved with a number of different Reserve units, most often as the Company Commander. My units included a Combat Engineer Battalion, an Engineering Equipment company and for two years commanding a Transportation Corp Light Boat company located in Muskegon, Michigan. The Light Boat company had the same type of landing craft as were used in the Normandy invasion in 1944.





David Thomas Retford con't.

We trained on the waters of Lake Michigan and as my friends said I had my own fleet of yachts.

In later years I received a Mobilization Designation, meaning I had a specific position I would go to in the event of an all-out mobilization of the Army. These positions were in some civilian run office where in the event of a mobilization there would need to be a military officer "overseeing" the civilians. Mine was with a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) support group in St. Louis. The hospital structure itself was an air inflated building, one that could be dropped from a plane, attached to an air compressor and be up in place in a few minutes, ready for the medical staff.

In 1980 I had completed over 20 years of Army Reserve duty and was transferred to the Ready Reserve where I no longer completed active training each year. But I still received orders in January of each year telling me where I was to report in the event of a mobilization. Finally on my birthday in 1994 at the age of 60 I was formally retired. I do subscribe to the saying, "there is a right way, a wrong way and the Army way" to accomplish something. But in retrospect I did enjoy all of my Army years.









Charles Rodes 1954 - 1957

Service U.S. Navy 6/54-6/57. Primary assignment: Officer on U.S.S. Knapp DD 653 (Fletcher Class) 6/54-2/57. Home base out of San Diego, CA with primary assignments in Western Pacific on Formosa patrol (Taiwan patrol). Assignments aboard the U.S.S. Knapp was Torpedo Officer, ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Officer and Gunnery Officer. Decommissioned the U.S.S. Knapp at Long Beach Naval Shipyard 2/57 to 6/57.







V. Amod Saxena, M.D. 1969 - 1976

Amod served in the US Army in its Medical Corp between May 1969 and May 1971. He joined the US Army as a Captain and was honorably discharged as a Major in May 1917. During his service in the Army, Amod was assigned to the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. His primary responsibility was to initiate, organize and build the first Section of Therapeutic Radiology (Radiation Oncology) within the department. The US Congress appropriated half a million dollars for this project. Saxena organized and helped build an extension to the Brooks Army Hospital at Brook Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston Texas to house a Cobalt-60 unit for treatment for cancer. He was appointed as its first head of this section and helped recruit personnel to the new section. The purpose of this unit was to treat patients with cancer by ionizing radiation and other radioactive agents. During the two years he was in this position, he trained young army physicians in clinical use of radiotherapy for which he received special accolades. During his service in the army, he also served as a physician in the Emergency Room and Section of Nuclear Medicine. Saxena was a member of several committees at the Army Base including the Tumor, Isotope and Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Safety Committees.





Amod was honorably discharged from the US Army in May 1971 and continued to serve in the US Army Reserve Major until 1976 when he was honorably discharged.



"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God such men lived"

George S. Patton



John Srofe 1956-1957



Luckily, I was between wars. My entire time was spent on board ships. The last ship I was on carried the Admiral. We supplied the DEW line which were radar stations. We went as far north as Point Barrow, Alaska.







David Stonebraker 1967-1969

In January 1967, I was drafted by the US Army. At Fort Knox, KY, I was trained as a tank driver and sent to Frankfort, Germany, 3rd Armored Division. My new barracks, Heinneger Kasearn, was previously occupied by Nazis during WWII. I was assigned to an admin company and became a personnel records specialist. Our mission: protect Fulda Gap from communist Russia. This was during the Cold War.

Part of my duties, a three-week assignment, accompanying the tankers to the firing range. This competition included: a lot of tanks, weapons, shooting, and numbers. My warrant officer and I were charged with keeping daily gunnery scores. We had 10 Gls crunching numbers – paper and pencil. Through a good friend, I was able to find an electronic calculator (unusual for the army at that time.) My warrant officer and I could then quickly do the job. The others were sent back to the base. Then, the warrant officer had time to do what he really wanted to do. He had a double barrel shotgun. I drove him throughout the countryside to shoot crows. The bounty on crows was one Deutsche Mark. We gave the crows to his wife's German family who lived nearby. They were very pleased and provided daily lunch. One day, a procession of tanks ran our jeep into a ditch. The jeep rolled over, destroying the windshield. My assignment: find and install a new windshield!





Barb came to Germany. We had a small apartment by the Main River, near a beautiful garden. Barb found an accounting job at a travel agency. That job gave us lots of flexibility and extra cash. We bought a red Volkswagon, at the PX, and traveled throughout nearby countries. Also, we traveled by duty train to communist East Berlin, Germany. We visited the dastardly "Wall."

December 1968, after 2 years of active duty, I was then inactive reserve. I returned to my job at NCR, Barb to Cincinnati Bell, with our

new VW. We were very fortunate, since many were being sent to Vietnam.



Dwight Thompson 1962-1968

I attended Purdue University and was a member of the ROTC. I did summer training at Fort Leonard Wood. Commissioned as a 2nd Lt, I trained for 3 months at Ft. Bel in VA. I served 19 months at Ft. Bragg, NC in the 66th Engr Topographic Company.

I went on to become a 1st Lt in the 18th Air Borne Corp of Engineers and end my military career as a Captain for 4 years in the Army Corp of Engineers Reserves.









Rodney Nixon 2002 - Present

U.S. Army/U.S. Army Reserve

I entered military service in June 2002 after high school. I was sent to Fort Jackson for training. Upon completing basic training and AIT, I was attached to the 1st Calvary division at Fort Hoof Tx.

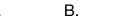
I was sent to Iraq in 2004-2005. I've also served in Kuwait, Egypt, Panama, and briefly in Saudi Arabia.

Afterwards I joined the army reserve were I continue to serve today. My awards include two Army commendation medals(A). Two-army reserve components achievement awards (ARCAM) Armed forces

reserve medal, army service ribbon, global war terrorism medal (B), and humanitarian service medal (C).













Frank Uehlin 1971 - 2012

I joined the Ohio Army National Guard on May 15, 1971. I went to Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Knox, KY.

In 1977 there a huge blizzard in Cincinnati. I drove doctors and nurses to and from the hospitals in a jeep. The whole city was shut down for a couple of days.

In 1989 my unit went to Honduras to build roads that had been washed out from rain storms. There was a flash flood in June 1990 at Shadyside, OH. It killed 26 people. Our unit was involved with the aftermath and helped with the cleanup.

In 1993 there was a riot at the maximum state prison in Lucasville, OH. We were activated for a week and our unit had to sleep in a chicken coop at the state fair grounds. The next year we went to Panama to construct an obstacle course for the Army at Ft. Kobbe.



In 2003 I went to Korea to participate in the US/S Korea military exercises which North Korea gets very excited about.

In 2004 our battalion (216th Combat Engineer) was activated and sent to Iraq for a year. We were stationed in Tikrit and built an airstrip, constructed berms and guard posts. The surge was going on at this time.

I retired on October 31, 2012.









Deupree House Resident Veterans

Baldwin, W. Keith Robert S. Benintendi, M.D. Clark, Charles Richard "Dick" Davis, Pierson Fencl, Richard "Dick" Gray, Don Harris, Albert E. Hawley, Donald

Hummel, Dr. Robert Jergens, Andrew Johnston, Robert A. Learmonth, William R. Mills, Earl Nau, Robert Ottenjohn, Thomas H. Retford, David Thomas

Rodes, Charles
Roos, John
Rowe, William "Bill" C.
Saxena, V. Amod, M.D.
Srofe, John
Stonebraker, David
Thompson, Dwight



Giesel, Roger G. - Army

Former DH Resident Veterans

Andress, Frank - Navy Austin, Arnold - Navy Bain, St. John - Navy Baude, Hugh K. - Navy Bartlett, Robert A. - Army Bayless, David - Armed Forces Beckman, Mark - Air Force Bigham, Margaret - WAAF, Royal Air Force Breiel, Wilson - Navy Burkman, Ken - Coast Guard Campbell, David - Air Force Cavaliere, Chet - Air Force Christenson, Gordon - Air Force Cobb, William - Army Cors, Captain L. Barry - Air Force Dinsmore, Wiley - Army Davis, Frank Faught, Walter S. - Army Fix, John "Jack" C. - Navy Gerwin, Bob - Air Force

Ginsburg, Marshall - Army Gottschalk, Jack - Air Force Grant, Don Gunnell, Dorothy - Royal Canadian Air Force Hopple, John - Navy Koehler, Fred - Air Force Hunter, Summer - British Army Bill Keating - Navy Macaulay, Robert "Wally" Magee, Jay Matthews, Pierce - Air Force Matthews, Robert - Air Force Mattingly, Steele F. - Army Maxwell, Elizabeth - Air Force Maxwell, Jim - Air Force McCormick, Robert - Navy McOwen, Thomas B. - Army Muntz, Ernest G. - Air Force Nebergall, Jack - Army Nielsen, Eric - Air Force

Paulsen, Paul - Navy Plattner, John W. - Army Pontius, Tom Raible, Earl - Air Force Riedinger, Roy Risinger, Captain Robert E., USN, Ret. - Navy Robertson, Robbie - Army Rohde, William "Bill" - Army Roos, John - Navy Rowe, William "Bill" - Navy Sarran, Ted - Navy Schmidt, John E. - Air Force Schreiner, Albert W. III, M.D. - Army Smith, Roger - Army Todd, Joe, M.D. - Army Victor, Bill - Army Wham, William B. - Navy Williams, Jack - Army Wilson, Robert - Air Force Zwicky, John - Army



Thanks to all who served.



Deupree House